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LETTER DATED 2 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic issued on 30 July 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

From 21 to 23 July 1993, armed forces of the Republic of Armenia conducted a large-scale attack using a significant number of armoured vehicles and artillery, during which it seized and occupied the Agdam district of the Azerbaijani Republic. This treacherous act by the Armenian aggressor resulted in the death of approximately 200 civilians and the displacement of 160,000.

The occupation of the Agdam district, which followed loud assurances by the Republic of Armenia that adhered to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the peaceful settlement of the bloody conflict it had thrust upon Azerbaijan, ripped the mask of "peace-lover" from the face of the aggressor.

The leaders of the Azerbaijani Republic asked the United Nations Security Council to consider the situation and adopt all measures to restrain the aggressor and liberate the seized Azerbaijani territories.

The Security Council, in considering the request by Azerbaijan, promptly conducted appropriate consultations and, as a result, convened an urgent meeting on 29 July during which resolution 853 (1993) was adopted.

The Azerbaijani Republic is grateful to the Security Council and its members for reacting in a timely manner to the Azerbaijani appeal and for adopting resolution 853 (1993).

Azerbaijan hopes that the Security Council's rigorous insistence on a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic, the inviolability of internationally recognized borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force to acquire territory will produce results.

The Azerbaijani Republic hopes that the demand for the unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces will deny the Armenian side the opportunity to repeat the tricks it used previously to impede the implementation of resolution 822 (1993) requiring that it withdraw its forces from the Kelbajar district.

Azerbaijan considers the Security Council's appeal to the Government of the Republic of Armenia that it continue to exert influence over Armenians in the Nagorny-Karabakh area to be a recognition of responsibility for the actions taken against the Azerbaijani Republic.

Gravely concerned by the massive illegal supply of weapons to the territory of Azerbaijan from the territory of the Republic of Armenia and the militarization of the occupied Azerbaijani territories, Azerbaijan properly appreciates the appeal to States to refrain from supplying weapons which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of the territory. Azerbaijan has repeatedly stressed the absolute need to prevent the

supply of weapons and personnel from the territory of Armenia by way of the Lachin and Kelbajar districts, under occupation by Armenian troops, to the Nagorny-Karabakh area of the Azerbaijani Republic.

Drawing the attention of the international community to the tragic fate of more than 500,000 displaced Azerbaijanis who are awaiting humanitarian aid and cooperation to enable them to return to their homes, Azerbaijan considers the points contained in resolution 853 (1993) to be of the utmost importance.

Alarmed by the critical situation in which 350,000 inhabitants of Nakhichevan found themselves as a result of the blockade by the Armenian Republic, Azerbaijan hopes that the Armenian side will comply with the Security Council's demand for the withdrawal of occupying forces from Azerbaijani territories and an end to the bloodshed, thereby laying the groundwork for a solution to this problem.

The Azerbaijani Republic has repeatedly expressed its willingness to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and expressed serious concern about the actions taken by Armenia which are undermining the peace efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations. Azerbaijan believes that the implementation of resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) should create conditions for the pursuit of negotiations as part of the Minsk process in order to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.